

St Alphege Church Choirs

Senior Organ Scholar



Music at St. Alphege

There is a strong tradition of cathedral-style music at the heart of the worship at St. Alphege. We have separate choirs of boys, girls, men and ladies. We currently have two choral services every Sunday. Our weekly recitals in church regularly draw audiences of between 40 and 70 people, and sometimes more. Throughout the year, a programme of cathedral visits, concerts and vespers recitals takes place.

Organ Scholars

Organ Scholars (one Senior, two Junior) are expected to play a full part in the life of the choirs. The skills and attributes sought include:

- Organ playing ability (Senior: Grade 8, Junior: Grade 6)
- Willingness to gain experience accompanying many styles of cathedral and parish church music, and to acquire skills commensurate with becoming a choir director
- Commitment to the musical community at St. Alphege.

Reports to: Assistant Organist

Weekly Timetable

- Friday evening rehearsal - sing, observe or accompany: (7.30 – 8.45pm); directing and teaching experience will be offered at occasional chorister rehearsals from 6.30pm. Experience at other chorister rehearsals may also be offered on request: Wednesdays at 6.00pm with the Senior Girls, Thursdays at 5.30pm with the Juniors and/or 6.15pm with the Senior Boys.

Monthly Timetable

- Two monthly attendances on Sunday morning (singing or playing): usually 9.30am practice for 10.30am Eucharist*
- Two monthly attendances on Sunday evening (singing or playing): 4pm practice for 5pm Choral Evensong
- Accompany a full service twice a month (on two of the above occasions)
- Regular opportunities to observe and assist the organist

Extra services (eg festivals) and commitments such as concerts are notified as part of the schedule.

* Most second Sundays 10.00am for 11.00am Mass

The opportunity is offered to the Senior Organ Scholar for an occasional Wednesday lunchtime recital, paid separately.

The choirs usually have one Sunday off at half-term, one or two off after Christmas and Easter, depending on dates, and all of August.

Bursary

Remuneration is through a bursary funded by the Friends of St Alphege Music (FoSAM), payable monthly in arrears following receipt of an invoice. The rate is for the Senior Organ Scholar is £2,700 per annum, ie £225 per calendar month subject to satisfactory attendance and completion of the agreed monthly tasks. There is also the opportunity to enhance remuneration through private teaching work, singing at weddings/funerals, and recitals. We also offer participation in recordings and tours which the choir undertakes. The financial aspect of trips and tours would be discussed on an individual basis.

This agreement will be reviewed at the end of the academic year.

Signed: _____(NAME, Organ Scholar)

Signed: _____(Christopher Thomas, Director of Music)

Signed: _____(Nick Cahm/Pam Price, on behalf of FoSAM)

Start date: 01/09/2025

Review date: 01/07/2026 (end of term)